GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2928
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
MOBILE SERVICES OPERATION SUPERVISORY PASSWORDS
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile services operation supervisory passwords are handed over to outside corporations of foreign origion;

(b) if so, the functions that can be rendered by these passwords;

(c) whether billing can be manipulated resulting in huge losses to the PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the system may put the network`s reliability and confidentiality at stake and can have serious remifications for the country`s strategic security interests; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (f) No, Sir. As per information received from leading Mobile Service Providers, the mobile services supervisory passwords are generally not handed over to outside corporations of foreign origin.

However, access to the mobile equipment is sometimes provided to the supplier of the said equipment, under the strict control and supervision of the service providers. Generally, this is done only when there is total failure in whole or part of the system affecting the services for a prolonged period, which the Service Provider is not able to rectify the fault themselves.

The mobile equipment used by the Service Providers is of foreign technology for which experts are available only with the manufacturer. Therefore, in case of emergency, it becomes necessary to provide access to these experts for restoration of the system.